

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 13, 2004

AS DC EXPANDS ITS CITIZEN VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES, THE MPDC ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO GET INVOLVED

With the Nation's Capital still under a heightened "Orange" terror alert, the District is stepping up efforts to recruit and train citizen volunteers to support first responders and other officials during a terrorist incident or other major emergency. In that spirit, the MPDC is encouraging residents to consider joining the Police Reserve Corps. The Police Reserves represent one of six volunteer programs that compose the DC Citizen Corps, a comprehensive effort to increase community involvement in emergency preparedness and response. Coordinated by "Serve DC," the Citizen Corps is a component of the USA Freedom Corps, established by President Bush in January 2002 to promote volunteerism at the national level. Now, Serve DC is organizing and training emergency volunteers to mobilize and respond to emergencies at the neighborhood level, through a new Neighborhood Corps initiative. Reserve Officers will be an important part of this new neighborhood-based emergency response initiative, as they work with volunteers trained in emergency response, disaster relief and medical treatment in times of emergency. At the same time, Reserve Officers continue to do what they have done for the past 50 years: support the everyday work of police officers through a variety of volunteer activities.

① For information about volunteer opportunities in the MPDC's Police Reserve Corps, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/services_PRC.shtm

① Details on the Serve DC initiative can be found at:
<http://www.serve.dc.gov/cncc/site/default.asp>

① Learn about the USA Freedom Corps at:
<http://usafreedomcorps.gov/>

① The MPDC offers private organizations suggestions on how to enhance security in their facilities during heightened terrorism alerts. Access the PDF document at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/crisisplanning.pdf>

MPDC JOINS AMERICAN RED CROSS IN URGING RESIDENTS TO GIVE BLOOD DURING AUGUST

While much of Washington takes a break during August, the need for blood in our city and region doesn't stop. And with the DC under a heightened terror alert this August, officials are particularly concerned about having adequate blood supplies on hand to respond to any emergency that may arise. That is why the MPDC this past week joined officials of the American Red Cross, along with Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and others, in an urgent plea for an immediate response from blood donors. A press conference was held Wednesday in conjunction with a community blood drive at MPDC headquarters to encourage the public to respond to this critical need. "Ensuring that our region has an adequate supply of blood is an essential part of our emergency preparedness efforts," said Chief Ramsey, who was represented by Assistant Chief Brian Jordan at the event. "Giving blood is a way for everyone to get involved in homeland security." The community blood supply remains in a state of depletion, making it challenging for the American Red Cross to supply local hospitals with blood products to meet patient needs and also be prepared to respond to a local or national demand for blood, based on the heightened terror alert. Members of the community are asked to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE immediately to schedule an appointment to donate at any American Red Cross Donor Center or community blood drive.

① Information about Regional Blood Donor Centers or community blood drive locations and times can be found at:
<http://www.my-redcross.org>

MPDC WEBSITE ADDS RESOURCES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Sexual assault can happen to anyone: children, students, wives, mothers, working women, grandmothers, the rich and poor, and boys and men. And the assailants can be anyone: classmates, co-workers, a neighbor or delivery person, total strangers, outgoing or shy, often a friend or a family member. Above all, sexual assault is a crime – an act of violence and an attempt to degrade someone using sex as a weapon. To help victims of sexual assault find the resources they may need in the aftermath of an attack, and to educate the larger community about the incidence of sexual assault, the MPDC has created a new “Sexual Assault Resources” page on its website. The site includes both national and local resources for sexual assault victims, as well as contact information for the MPDC units that investigate these crimes and provide support to victims. The page also has detailed facts and figures on sexual assault, plus useful publications and safety tips.

CIVILIAN POSITIONS IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for various civilian positions within the agency. One position is a Compliance and Quality Assurance Monitor within the MPDC’s Evidence Control Branch. Among other duties, this person will conduct daily system inspections of data entered into the Automated Evidence Gathering Inventory System (AEGIS) and conduct spot inspections of unit-level property offices to ensure compliance with all directives regarding the intake, custody and control of public property that the MPDC takes custody of. The Department is also recruiting for two Telecommunications Equipment (Teletype) Operators within the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Teletype Operators are primarily responsible for relaying, forwarding and sending messages to and from MPDC personnel through the use of a personal computer. Finally, the MPDC continues to recruit bilingual (English and Spanish) Police Communications Operators to assist with answering and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls to the police.

NEWS & NOTES

Ninth Serial Bank Robbery Suspect Apprehended. Omar Holmes, the ninth suspect recently indicted in the series of area bank robberies, was apprehended this past week in Laredo, Texas, by members of the US Marshals Service and local police. The suspects are charged in the robberies of six banks in DC and Prince George’s County dating back to January. In all cases, the suspects were masked and heavily armed, and frequently burned their getaway vehicles. Details on the indictments at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2824>.

New Pedestrian Safety Program. With 19 pedestrian deaths last year in DC, the District Department of Transportation has launched a pilot pedestrian safety program at two busy intersections of Connecticut Avenue, NW, in the Chevy Chase neighborhood. Called Smart Steps, the program places bright orange flags at each side of the intersection. Pedestrians wanting to cross the street wait for a break in the traffic, hold the flag out to alert motorists, cross the street in the crosswalk while holding the flag in front of them, and then deposit the flag at the other side of the street. DDOT will evaluate the program at the two intersections before considering any expansion.

Chief on WHUR Radio. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from 6:40-7 pm, on Tuesday, August 17, during his monthly appearance on the “Chatting with the Chief” program on WHUR-96.3 FM.

- ① Access this information at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/sexualassault_resources.shtm
- ① Learn how to reduce the risk of sexual assault—and what to do if the unthinkable happens – by visiting:
<http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/street/sexualassault.shtm>
- ① Access DC’s online Sex Offender Registry at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sor.shtm>
- ① Detailed descriptions of all of these positions, including salaries and application procedures, can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>
- ① The MPDC’s Career Expo for police officer candidates is Saturday, August 14. Details on sworn career opportunities at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/13/04)

- 2004: 117
- 2003: 161
- % Change: -27.3%
- Closure Rate: 54.7% (64 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 8/7/04)

- Total: 1,034
- Drugs: 197
- Weapons: 21
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 30
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 71

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/11/04)

- August: 48
- 2004 Total: 1,249

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/13/04)

- 2004: 34
- 2003: 43
- % Change: -20.9%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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